



DRUMS OF LOUISIANA

News From Louisiana Indian Country

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Native American Indian Heritage Month Celebrated

The Natural Resources Conservation Service celebrates American Indian Heritage Month every November. This celebration began in 1986, when President Reagan designated November 23 through November 30 as American Indian Week. Four years later, President Bush proclaimed the first National American Heritage Month. Each year since, U.S. presidents have proclaimed November as American Indian Heritage Month.

Louisiana has a colorful American Indian heritage. The state of Louisiana has the third largest American Indian population in the south. Sabine Parish has the highest percentage of population of American Indians in Louisiana, while Terrebonne Parish has the largest population.



John Rogers, District Conservationist for the NRCS Many Field Office giving the 2008 American Indian Heritage Poster to John Procell, Choctaw-Apache Tribe of Ebarb Chairman.

Choctaw-Apache Tribe Installs New Chairman and Tribal Council



The Choctaw-Apache Tribe of Ebarb held a luncheon prior to the installation of their new Chief John Procell and the new Tribal Council. The luncheon and the installation took place at St. Ann Catholic Church Hall in Ebarb on Sunday, September 21, 2008. The aroma of fried chicken, freshly baked desserts, and others foods welcomed the tribal members and guests. Over 200 people were in attendance with numerous local dignitaries and chiefs. One could see the results of the hospitality of the tribe by the smiling faces in the crowd.

Tammy Foster, Sabine Parish Clerk of Court and a tribal member officiated at the installation of Chief Procell and the tribal council which consist of Vice Chairman, James "Doug" Laroux; Secretary, Yvonne Sepulvado Busby; Treasurer, Virginia Laroux Malmay; and council members Susan King Lee, Ione Procell Durr, Joy Sepulvado Stewart, Joanne Bebee Sepeda, Pat Ebarb, Sr. and Christopher Rivers. Father Kenneth Williams said a blessing for the newly elected tribal council and Chief Procell.



United States Department of Agriculture
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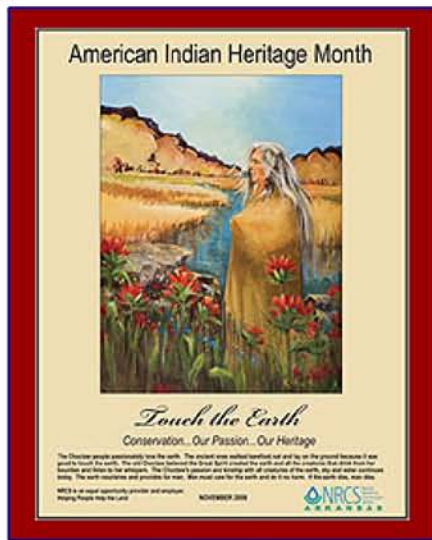


Ebarb High School Celebrates American Indian Heritage Month

On November 14, 2008 the Choctaw-Apache Tribe of Ebarb gave an informative and interactive program to the 2nd 8th grade classes of Ebarb High School on American Indian culture. These activities coincided with American Indian Heritage Month.

The program was designed to help students of Ebarb become more aware of their American Indian culture. The program began with a display of American Indian dances with student participation, followed by stops at different stations that demonstrated various aspects of American Indian life. The first station was American Indian dances; the second station was a tamale making demonstration; the third station featured flint knapping; the fourth station was a ribbon shirt demonstration; the fifth station was on beading; the sixth station was hand carving; the seventh station was on the Choctaw language; and the eighth station was on fry bread preparation. A display was set up featuring the history of the tribe, views of past pow-wows and what a pow-wow is, the 2008 American Indian Heritage Month poster of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, a history and map of Louisiana Indians and photos featuring Native American arts and crafts. This display was a partnership between the Central Louisiana Intertribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program (CLIVR), the Natural Resources Conservation Service Many Field Office (NRCS) and the Sabine Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

Sponsors for the Choctaw-Apache Tribe of Ebarb Cultural Education Day were CLIVR, PALS program, NRCS, Choctaw-Apache Tribe, Project Venture, Kurt Sepulvado, and the Sabine SWCD.



American Indian Heritage Month Poster

NRCS celebrates American Indian Heritage Month every November. As part of this celebration, an American Indian Tribal artist is chosen each year to create a painting that will be turned into a poster.

Choctaw Nation artist, Kathy Sturch depicts the passion the Choctaw people have for creation and their kinship with the earth in her painting "Touch the Earth," which won the American Indian Heritage Month Poster contest hosted by Arkansas NRCS. (2008)

This year's poster was sent to every federal and state tribe in Louisiana. Some of the posters were given out at the Adai Indian Nation Pow-Wow and will also be given out at the Choctaw-Apache Tribe of Ebarb Pow-Wow held in May in Zwolle.



Adai Indian Nation Pow-Wow

The 18th annual Adai Indian Nation Pow-Wow was held in the Adai Indian Community in Natchitoches Parish on October 18, 2008. The NRCS Many Field Office had a display that showed the services that NRCS has to offer along with history and photos of the Adai Pow Wow, the uses of buffalo, and the 2008 American Indian Heritage Month Poster. John Rogers, District Conservationist for the NRCS Many Field Office said, "The response to the display was great with numerous questions being answered about the display, our job and how to get a job with NRCS". Rogers also handed out posters for this year's American Indian Heritage Month.



Locally Led Conservation Meetings

We had two tribes that participated in the Locally Led Conservation Process that is on going in Louisiana. The tribes that have participated in the Locally Led Meetings were the Choctaw-Apache Tribe of Ebarb and the Talimali Band Apalache of Louisiana. The tribes found the meeting interesting and very informative. They also voiced their resources concerns at the meeting.

Choctaw-Apache Tribe to Honor Their Veterans



On Saturday November 8, 2008 the Choctaw-Apache Tribe held a Veterans Day Breakfast to honor their veterans. At this event the tribe announced that a veteran's memorial monument and flag poles will be constructed on their tribal grounds in Ebarb. The granite wall will be three feet wide and six feet tall and will list tribal members who died in World War, I & II, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam, the Iran, and Afghanistan Wars. At this event a local motor cycle group the "Wild Hogs" donated a check for \$4,000.00 to the tribe for the memorial.

John Rogers, District Conservationist at the Many Field Office, an Army Veteran was asked to attend the meeting and to take pictures and write a news article for the tribe for this event.



Louisiana Spring & Summer Tribal Pow-Wow Schedule



If you would like to learn about American Indian culture and history then attend a pow-wow in your area. You will find them colorful, exciting, and most of all informative. Don't forget to try the fried bread, delicious!



April 17-19 - 43rd Annual Spring Pow Wow

Location: Lamar-Dixon Expo Center - Gonzales, LA.

Cost: Adults \$5- Children 12 & under FREE w/paid adult--LIHA members & uniformed military/first responders FREE

Contact: Joe at 504-837-6085 or djpm2@cox.net

Notes: Louisiana Indian Heritage 43rd Annual Spring dance and Princess contest. Inter-tribal & Gourd Dancing -- Native Crafts, Foods, Demonstrators & Exhibitions 4-H Building -- Rain or shine - Primitive camping(\$10 bathhouse fee) RV camping \$25/30 camps..\$30/50 camp/day; web site www.LIHA-News.com.

May 2-3, 2009 Choctaw-Apache Tribe Traditional Pow-Wow

Location: Zwolle Festival Grounds, Zwolle, LA

Cost: Free Parking

Contact: Call (318) 645-2588 between the hours of 7:30-3:30, Monday-Friday.

Notes: Saturday, May 2-Gourd Dancing 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. - Grand Entry 6:00 p.m.; Sunday May 3-Gourd Dancing 10:30-Noon - Grand Entry 1:00 p.m. No Alcohol or Drugs Allowed.

May 15, 16, & 17, 2009 Tunica-Biloxi

Tribe of Louisiana Pow-Wow

Location: At the Chief Joseph Alcide Pierite Pow Wow Grounds on the Tunica-Biloxi Reservation near Marksville, LA. Parking: available near the Pow Wow grounds and at Paragon Casino Resort.

Cost: Gen. Admission - \$5; Children (5 yrs & younger) - \$2; Seniors (65 & older) - \$3(Registered DRUMS & DANCERS and Casino employees w/ badges WILL BE ADMITTED FREE).

Contact: For further information please call 800-946-1946, ext. 2034 or visit them on the web at www.tunicapowwow.org

Notes: Featured Performances: Blues Nation & Wayanay Inka; Native American Dance Competition: Any one category with less than five (5) dancers will be combined. Entry fee is \$5 for dance competition participants. Up to \$28,000 in prizes. Committee Special: Traditional Style Dance Contest – Best Man and Best Woman, \$1,000 each, Friday, May 15, 8:30PM. Participants must register and dance in Grand Entry on Friday. Drum (Singing) Contest: Three Places in both the Northern & Southern categories; 1st Place \$3,000; 2nd Place \$2,000; 3rd Place \$1,000. Host drums are not eligible. (Drum Day Money given in past years has been replaced by this contest.) *Competition Points start at 1 p.m. Saturday. GRAND ENTRIES REGISTRATION (Dance & Drum) Friday, May 15, 7:30 p.m. Opens 5-8 p.m. on Friday, May 15 Saturday, May 16, 1:00 & 7:30 p.m. Closes 12 noon on Saturday, May 16 Sunday, May 17, 12 noon Pow Wow ends @ 4:00 p.m.

The Pow Wow features over 40 food and craft vendors. (Call Sharon @ ext. 2523)

